



U.S. CIVIL AIR PATROL EAST BAY CADET SQUADRON 18 PRESS RELEASE

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Squadron 18 Recognized as California Wing Cadet Squadron of the Year

Hayward, CA – October 14, 2012

The East Bay Cadet Squadron 18 “Firebirds” were recognized as California Wing’s “Cadet Squadron of the Year” at the 2012 California Wing Conference on September 29, 2012 in Ontario, California.

Present to receive the award at the California Wing Conference were Squadron Commander Maj. Doug Crawford, Cadet Commander Cadet Maj. Luke Beck-Fridell, along with Squadron 18 members Maj. Rene McCoy, Maj. Mark Fridell, Capt. Ken Sturgill, and Capt. Tammy Sturgill.

“It was the group of dedicated, driven cadets that made Squadron 18’s selection for this award possible,” said Cadet Major Luke Beck-Fridell, Cadet Commander of Squadron 18. “The constant, genuine support and care that Firebirds show for not only each other, but for everyone, makes it a privilege for me to be able to call other Firebirds not just members of my squadron, but members of my family.”

Over the past year, Squadron 18 cadets have accomplished 1 Spaatz Award, 2 Eaker Awards, and 1 Earhart Award. Firebirds have commanded, staffed, and attended activities such as: Watsonville Air Show, Encampment, Basic Cadet School, Non-Commissioned Officer School, Cadet Officer’s Basic Course, and International Air Cadet Exchange. At Encampment 2012, Firebirds were well represented and served as: Cadet Training Group Commander, Group Superintendent, and the 121st Cadet Training Squadron Commander.

In keeping with Squadron 18 traditions of excellence, East Bay Cadet Squadron 18 has been recognized as the Group 2 Cadet Squadron of the Year in 2011, 2010, and 2008. The Firebirds were also recognized as both a Pacific Coast Region Squadron of Distinction and a California Wing Squadron of Merit in 2009.

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 57,000 members nationwide. CAP performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 90 lives in fiscal year 2008. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counterdrug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 22,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for 71 years. For more information, visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com.

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